



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SEXTON RECEIVES ROBINSON AWARD

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – At its meeting in Frankfort today, the Kentucky Board of Education presented the annual Dr. Samuel Robinson Award to late Robert Sexton, executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. The award was accepted by Sexton's wife, Pam.

Since 2004, the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award has been conferred on an individual or groups in Kentucky for outstanding leadership, commitment and service in promoting equity and opportunity to learn at high levels for all Kentucky students.

In their nomination letter, Cindy Heine and Albert Smith, Jr. of the Prichard Committee noted that Sexton was a champion for Kentucky's children.

"Bob never ran for political office. He didn't invent a new machine, captain a financial empire or run a giant corporation. We honor him as a social entrepreneur. He tackled the most important challenge of our time, which is how to help Kentucky kids become competitive in a knowledge economy."

Kentucky Board of Education Chair David Karem presented the award.

"Bob Sexton's entire career was focused on improving education in Kentucky at all levels," said Karem. "He brought education leaders together to hammer out policy and strategy issues on which the groups could agree and then promoted them with policymakers. Over the years, he generated bipartisan support for legislative initiatives that helped to move Kentucky's education system forward."

(more)

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>.

Past Recipients of the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award

- 2004** (joint recipients) Sen. Gerald A. Neal of Louisville and the One Community, One Voice Achievement and Closing the Gap Community Committee of Fayette County
- 2005** Robert Smotherman, superintendent of the Bardstown Independent school district
- 2006** (joint recipients) Marlene Helm, Ed.D, former interim dean of the Eastern Kentucky University College of Education and Rep. Frank Rasche of Paducah
- 2007** Kathy Reed, member of the Bardstown Independent School Board
- 2008** Laura McGrail, lead school psychologist for the Henderson County school district
- 2009** Arriba Niños (Upward Children) program in Shelbyville and the First Baptist Church Bracktown in Fayette County
- 2010** Helen Mountjoy, former secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

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